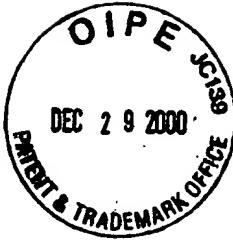


**✓**  
**BOX AFTER FINAL**



Response Under 37 CFR §1.116 G.E.

Expedited Procedure  
Group Art Unit: 1645

10/13/01

Atty. Docket: 981167

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED**

In re the Application of:

JAN 03 2001

Shuji SAITO et al.

TECH CENTER 1600/2800

Serial Number: 09/147,052

Group Art Unit: 1645

Filed: April 5, 1999

Examiner: HINES, J.

For: NOVEL FUSED PROTEIN, GENE THEREFOR, RECOMBINANT VECTOR,  
RECOMBINANT VIRUS, AND ITS USE

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

December 29, 2000

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 31, 2000, the Applicants respectfully request that the present application be amended as follows, and the rejection of record be reconsidered in view of the amendments and the following remarks. A petition for a one-month extension of the response period and the requisite fee therefor are submitted concurrently herewith.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 14.

Please amend claims 2, 5 and 9-11 as follows.

Claim 2, line 1, please delete "14" and substitute therefor --18--.